

OREM CITY COUNCIL/ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
56 North State, Orem, Utah
April 28, 2016

This meeting was for discussion purposes only. No official action was taken.

CONDUCTING	Mayor Pro Tem Mark Seastrand
OREM ELECTED OFFICIALS	Councilmembers Debby Lauret, Sam Lentz, Tom Macdonald, Mark Seastrand, and Brent Sumner
OREM STAFF	Jamie Davison, City Manager; Brenn Bybee, Assistant City Manager; Stephen Downs, Assistant to the City Manager; Karl Hirst, Recreation Department Director; and Jackie Lambert, Deputy City Recorder
ALPINE BOARD OF EDUCATION	John Burton, Paula Hill, JoDee Sundberg, and Deborah Taylor
ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMIN.	Sam Jarman, Superintendent; Jess Christen, Administrative Director of Operations
ABSENT/EXCUSED	Mayor Richard F. Brunst and David Spencer
INVOCATION	Brent Sumner

Mayor Brunst called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Items of Common Interest

DISCUSSION – Alpine School District Bond – “Growing Forward”

Superintendent Jarman said they had been engaged in a public outreach effort regarding the proposed 2016 Alpine School District bond. He said the bond had not yet been approved by the school board, but they were having meetings to get feedback from the community. He said Alpine School District was the largest district in the state, with over 75,000 students and just under 8,000 employees. He said they felt student achievement was the way to succeed, so they believed in teacher quality and a comprehensive curriculum. He said the graduation rate in the district was 92.3 percent, up from 75 percent in 2010, and that included Polaris High school, which was a special purpose school for at-risk students. Polaris individually had a graduation rate of nearly 70 percent. He said the 92.3 percent did not meet every need, particularly for special needs students with IEPs that typically were in place until the student was 22-years-old.

Mrs. Lauret asked what had made the difference from 2010 to present in raising the graduation rate. Superintendent Jarman said they used team teaching programs where teachers were grouped by either subject or grade level and viewed *all* students as *their* students, not just those in their

classrooms. Mr. Macdonald asked what the Governor's goal was for graduation rates, to which Superintendent Jarman answered 90 percent.

Mr. Christen said teacher assessments helped identify which students were not learning at the point they should be, and helped those students refocus to be successful. The graduation rate was tied to intervention programs that were in place. Ms. Taylor added that the intervention programs were a K-12 effort, and they had changed what they did in specialty high schools like Polaris to include extra help.

Superintendent Jarman said 96 percent of the 2015 graduates took the ACT with an average composite score of 21.4. He said the State helped all juniors take the ACT test by waiving the fee, which was why that percentage was so high. Over 5,000 Alpine School District students took AP exams, with approximately 3,800 of them passing. They earned over 11,300 credit hours through concurrent enrollment. As a district, they scored higher than the State average in all areas.

Mrs. Sundberg added that 11th graders did not take standardized tests to accommodate for taking the ACT, so they were not burned out by taking multiple standardized tests.

Superintendent Jarman said a research report was done in 2014 by the Utah Foundation. The study showed Utah County would grow faster than Salt Lake County and would grow tremendously from now until 2050. Alpine School District's projected enrollment in 2020 was 80,000, up from 75,403 in 2016 from population growth. He said the district did an independent survey with about 1,400 respondents. He said the three things to remember from the independent survey were:

1. Given only the ballot language as information, 59 percent of those surveyed said they would support a potential school bond.
2. A description of growth and no tax increase are the messages that most resonated with those surveyed.
3. Following a series of informational messages about the bond, support jumped to 74 percent.

Superintendent Jarman said in their message testing they found that people wanted to know details of what the bond would be used for. He said the first response from people was to pay the teachers more, which he found interesting. He clarified that the bond money would only be allowed to go toward things like capital improvements to rebuild or retrofit schools, improved security, building maintenance, and land acquisition for future school sites. He reviewed survey results about overall satisfaction with Alpine School District, academic performance, how respondents felt while children were at school, school safety, access to technology, and alternative plans if the proposed bond did not pass.

Mr. Macdonald commented that most alternative plans if the bond did not pass would be additional burdens on the teachers. Superintendent Jarman agreed.

Superintendent Jarman said over the four year bond period they would address the following topics:

- Growth

- 1 new high school
- 2 new middle schools
- 5 new elementary schools
- Property for future schools
- Safety and Security
 - Secure access entrances for elementary schools
 - Security cameras
 - Key card access points
- Reconstruction
 - Finish rebuild of Lehi High
 - Renovate Mountain View High
 - Rebuild elementary schools
 - Clear Creek Education Center
 - Roof replacements
- Technology
 - Update wireless access points in all ASD schools
 - Rewire infrastructure

Superintendent Jarman shared some of the projects that would move forward under the proposed bond, including projects in the Orem area with a partial rebuild of Mountain View High and a rebuild of Cascade Elementary. He said they had also considered a rebuild of Geneva Elementary, but part of the challenge was its close proximity to Suncrest Elementary and they might need to rebuild the whole area. He said the Central Elementary School Space Center would either need to be upgraded or shut down, which was the same problem the Clear Creek camp facility was facing.

Mr. Lentz asked if in replacing the roofs like they had at Timpanogos High School they had considered building in solar panels. Superintendent Jarman said they had not looked at solar yet though they did work with groups like Siemens Energy to guide them to better energy use. Mrs. Sundberg said solar panels were a good idea that they should look into in the future.

Superintendent Jarman said they wanted to make upgrades in elementary schools that would have the entryways lead right to the main offices and keep classrooms and hallways more secure with keycard access points. Security cameras were installed in Alpine School District schools in 1988, but that system was getting older and needed to be updated. Most cameras recorded to a digital hard drive and in some cases police departments had remote access to the system. There were also issues to be addressed regarding video storage of the data.

Superintendent Jarman said the bond issue would be voted on by the school board in August. He hoped that if they moved forward with the bond that the Mayor and City Council would be supportive of it.

Mrs. Lauret asked the approximate cost per household for the bond. Superintendent Jarman said there were certain things that would factor into that amount, so he could not definitively say but it would be a relatively small increase if there was any increase at all. Mrs. Lauret said some people had a hard time with these kinds of small increases because there always seemed to be a new debt introduced once one was retired.

Ms. Taylor said it was true that bonds were layered. She said there were no impact fees for education, so the bond option had become their impact fee. They had capital costs and other needs that could only go so far on tax revenue alone. Public education was a community benefit, and they did try to spread the debt out over years to help minimize cost.

Mr. Lentz asked about the 26 percent that had opposed the bond in the survey and asked if they had given feedback. Superintendent Jarman said traditionally certain communities would just oppose bonds outright, without giving a specific reason. He said the Orem community had supported bonds in the past, which they were grateful for.

Mr. Sumner asked about the decision to have the bond voted on by the school board in August. Superintendent Jarman said they wanted adequate time to educate the public on the reasons for the bond and the needs throughout the district. They also hoped to minimize pushback.

Mr. Davidson said the question was sometimes asked, “Why pay for schools built outside of our community?” He asked what the appropriate responses were to that question. Mrs. Sundberg said she would remind people that most of their children and grandchildren were living in the surrounding communities where these schools were going to be built. She also said that people in our community understood the importance of having an education and wanted to ensure that all children had that opportunity.

The question was asked about the possibility of Alpine School District splitting, as it was the largest district in the state. Superintendent Jarman first said that splitting the district would not remove the need for the bond. Secondly, every claim people had about large districts not being able to meet the needs of the students could be refuted with Alpine School District’s data. There was an economy of scale that came into play with being a large district. He said there would likely be a tipping point in the future where splitting the district would make the most sense, but they were not there yet.

Mr. Lentz asked if the cities involved in the bond would be responsible for their shares if the district were to split during a bond period. Mr. Davidson said yes they would, but it would be proportional.

UPDATE – All-Together Playground

Mr. Downs said the All-Together Playground would be built at the Orem City Center Park from September 5-11, 2016. He said Vivint was the playground’s biggest sponsor, and other sponsors included Brian Regan and Jimmer Fredette. He said the playground build would be during the United Way “Day of Caring” in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity’s 25th anniversary, and groups like UVU employees were having specific build days. He said they could have a specific Alpine School District build day if they were interested in participating in the build of the playground.

Mrs. Sundberg said they would be interested in that opportunity and would contact Mr. Downs.

Mr. Seastrand asked if schools could benefit from taking fieldtrips to the playground once it was built. It allowed all children to play together regardless of their potential physical limitations.

Superintendent Jarman said he would pass the information along to the elementary school supervisors.

Mr. Macdonald said he was impressed by Alpine School District's graduation rates and all the work they did to support students. He thanked them for their commitment to the community.

Mrs. Sundberg said they had partnered with the Juvenile Court Justice System working with principals from elementary and secondary schools to have regular meetings with Judge Mary Noonan. She was particularly committed to issues of those in difficult home situations, and the goal of the program was to help children get the educations they deserved. Mrs. Sundberg said the district was grateful for the partnership between the schools and the community.

FOLLOW UP – HAWK Signal

Superintendent Jarman asked for an update on the progress of the HAWK signal.

Mr. Davidson said they were planning to follow up with Rob Smith and Mr. Christen about that. They were also following up with engineering to get the project out to bid for a reasonable cost.

Set Date and Time for Next

The next meeting was scheduled for June 30, 2016, at noon in Orem.

Mr. Lentz **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Lauret **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed unanimously**.

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Donna R. Weaver, City Recorder

Approved: May 24, 2016